

NOTED
FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MAY 31 2012

JUDGE K. BAERMAN, C.J.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

Respondent,)

CRIMINAL ACTION NO:

DNYN 109-CR000507-002

Vs.)

CIVIL ACTION NO:

KAMLA SAHABIR,)

1:2012-CV-00-461

Movant,)

MOVANT'S TRAVERS TO GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE
TO MOTION UNDER 28 USC SECTION 2255

COMES NOW MOVANT KAMLA SAHABIR, and submits the following traverse to the government's response to her Section 2255 motion. This traverse includes and incorporates by reference the factual allegations, verified pursuant to 28 U SC § 1746 and the legal argument set forth in 28 USC Section 2255.

The government has responded to Kamla Sahabir 's section 2255 motion but addresses the Movant's claims in principle but not in fact by mischaracterizing her allegations, the record, and the basis of her claim. The government also misstates the applicable law, arguing that the definition of proceed as addressed in the Supreme Court ruling is somehow inapplicable to the case at bar in US V Santos as inapplicable to the case at bar. While the government has responded to the claims presented the response does not address all of his allegations, In particular the response does not address most of the allegations of the Movant's motion under 28 USC 2255. To the extent that the response is in conflict with the allegations of Movant Sahabir it is demonstrated within that provides grounds for an evidentiary hearing to resolve the dispute.

References to this response will hereinafter be "Govt. Resp. [page References to Kamla Sahabir Section 2255 motion will be denominated "Section 2255 Motion [page or paragraph]". Unless otherwise indicated any references to paragraphs in the Section 2255 motion will refer to the numbered paragraphs of the "Statement of Claim" of the motion.

1
2 Additionally, to further clarify the issues, Movant Sahabir has, with this
3 traverse, filed a Statement of Disputed Issues of Material Facts. In this
4 document, she has specifically pointed out the facts which are in dispute and
5 which are material to the resolution of his Section 2255 Motion. For the sake of
6 brevity and clarity, these disputed issues of material fact are not enumerated here
7 and have, instead, been referenced in a separate Statement Of Disputed Facts.

8 Kamla Sahabir demonstrates within that;

9 (1) she has in fact and law stated a prima facie claim of ineffective
10 assistance of counsel in the trial process;

11 (2) material factual disputes exist in this case which mandate the Court to
12 grant an evidentiary hearing; and

13 (3) the government's other arguments are adequately addressed in the
14 statement of claim and memorandum incorporated in Kamla Sahabir's Section
15 2255 Motion.

16 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

17 KAMLA SAHABIRHAS IN FACT AND LAW STATED A 18 PRIMA FACIE CASE OF INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE 19 OF COUNSEL IN TRIAL AND SENTENCING PROCESS

20 As set forth above, in the Statement of Claim of his Section 2255 motion,
21 Kamla Sahabir has pleaded a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in the
22 trial and sentencing process when As set forth above, in the Statement of
23 Claim of her Section 2255 motion, Kamla Sahabir has pleaded a claim of
24 ineffective assistance of counsel in the trial and sentencing process when
25 Counsel failed to raise relevant case law.

26

Kamla Sahabir has, with this traverse, also renewed her motion for discovery which was included in his Section 2255 motion. As set forth in the renewed motion for discovery, the discovery is now even more critically important due to the material factual disputes which have arisen as part of the government response. Additionally, the requested discovery may well resolve the material factual disputes without a hearing, thereby conserving judicial resources.

1
2 Movant was prejudiced at the sentencing phase of the process by the
3 unprofessional omissions of counsel, set forth in because, absent said omissions
4 of the inclusion of the Supreme Court ruling in U.S. v Santos, with the definition
5 of money laundering, there is a reasonable probability that the outcome of the
6 trial process would have been different, especially as it relates to mitigating
7 factors that the court may have considered as well as the calculation of the
8 guidelines for the purpose of sentencing.

9 Resp. at 5

10 The Sahabirs deny now as they did then that there was ever an agreement
11 with Lal Singh as he implied and testified in this case. They deny that Kamla ever
12 had a meeting with Lal Singh. They did have a promissory note to repay the
13 payment \$90,000.00 which was shown in court.

14 Lal Singh's testimony was a part of the plea agreement he struck with the
15 Government to mitigate the damage to himself and his family members who were
16 never charged. This is despite the fact that his wife had deposited several hundred
17 thousand dollars into her account. Evident, but something which she denied she
18 had no knowledge of. Singh's inconsistencies were quite visible at trial He
19 deposited funds in the bank accounts without any notice and demanded that Baldeo
20 Sahabir take all his monies in the form of cash and checks to New York. Kamla
21 Sahabir was never involved in any of these trips.

22 John Deen was never a Forensic Accountant (that was never stated in court).
23 He states to the court he had just graduated from college with a degree in
24 Accounting and worked for the New York State Police Department. As noted in
25 the record, John Deen stated quite clearly that his testimony was based on
26 assumptions. That fact was clearly established when questioned by Trial Attorney
Coffey. The fact remains unaltered that Lal Singh had access to Baldeo Sahabir's
account because of a small personal loan that was repaid. This explains in no
uncertain terms the reasons for Singh's access to account belonging to Baldeo
Sahabir.

There was never any proof or evidence presented that the Sahabirs ever met
with Mr. Singh to discuss any part of his criminal activities. Mr. Singh by his own

1 admission in court has committed many acts of deception without regard to the
2 law or harm to others and that he would have to suffer for these acts. Singh gained
3 access to the American Seva Account because of the loan agreement of \$90,000.00
4 (the Promissory Note was presented at trial). Baldeo's explanation was very clear
5 and evident by the checks given to Lal Singh. Mr. Singh wrote the names of his
6 family members on the blank checks and collected the cash from Baldeo.

7 The same strategy that Singh used to coerce his family members was the
8 same strategy he used on the Baldeo and Kamla Sahabir making them conduits for
9 his illegal activities. Baldeo Sahabir gave the same explanation as Singh's family.
10 The only difference is that the jury believed Singh's family and not Baldeo
11 Sahabir. All monies sent to America Seva were returned directly to Lal Singh by
12 either cash or checks.

13 Baldeo Sahabir's name is in the American Seva Certificate of Incorporation
14 but was never an officer of the organization. He only volunteered his services as a
15 music teacher (see references given by members of the community).

16 Resp. at 6:

17 Movant rebuts that John Deen's analysis of the accounts has no proof or
18 evidence that any monies went directly to the Sahabirs. John Deen never provided
19 any evidence or any analysis to the court of his findings. 2003-2007 contrary to
20 the Government's allegations, no monies were ever sent to the Personal accounts
21 of the Sahabirs. These were merely unproven allegations.

22 The Sahabirs never declared Sighs money on their taxes because the money
23 was never theirs. Also Singh's money was never a part of the American Seva
24 Financial Statement because again, the money was returned to Singh. All the bank
25 account transactions clearly shows that the monies were withdrawn and checks
26 written within three days of deposit and trips made to New York City were evident.
It was evident that all monies were taken to Singh in Queens (EZ Pass will verify
that).

The Government itself admits (Resp. pg. 7, 1st line) the evidence is
circumstantial (not factual). Movant submits that this should be construed as
mitigating and in favor of their argument for relief requested.

1 In the last paragraph (Resp. at pg. 7) endorses the fact that all Singh's
 2 relatives many friends state that they all gave the monies back to Singh. The
 3 Sahabir's contested the same. The difference is that the jury believed the relatives
 of Lal Singh, but not the same testimony and protestations of the Baldeo Sahabir.

4 The Government's argument that Movant Sahabir walked away with half the
 5 money is pure speculation.

6 THE GOV'T ARGUMENT ON SANTOS IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM
 7 THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING. "PROFIT" HAS ONLY ONE
 8 DEFINITION AND CANNOT BE ALTERED.

9 The Supreme Court ruling in Santos espouses a new rule. Movant submits
 10 that the new rule requires a recalculation of the loss previously attributed to the
 Defendants charged in Money Laundering cases. United States v. Santos, 553
 11 U.S. 507, 128 S. Ct. 2020, 170 L.Ed.2d 912 (2008), held that the money-
 12 laundering statute's, 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1), term "proceeds" was ambiguous and
 as a result, in certain circumstances, must be read to mean "profits." Santos clearly
 13 applies to the case at bar. United States v. McPhail, 112 F.3d 197, 199 (5th
 14 Cir.1997). Sahabir contends that, at the time they were convicted the statute the
 rule was in effect and did define the meaning of the term "proceeds as "profits" .
 15 and was applicable to the case at bar.

16 In 18 U.S.C. § 1956(c)(9) (West 2009) ("[T]he term 'proceeds' means any
 17 property derived from or obtained or retained, directly or indirectly, through some
 18 form of unlawful activity, including the gross receipts of such activity.")).
 312 Pub. L. No. 111-21, 123 Stat. 1617, 1618-19. Siu v. United States, Nos. C08-
 19 1407-JCC, CR02-0192-JCC, 2009 WL 2032028, at *8(W.D. Wash. 2009) ("Here,
 20 as the government concedes, both Santos and Cuellar are new substantive rules
 21 because they narrow the scope of the federal money laundering statute.

22 Santos was significantly relevant at sentencing because of the calculation of
 23 the offense level based on the amount of funds involved in the case which
 translated into the prison exposure term.

24 Movant

25 submits the new interpretation under relevant case law warrants a review of the
 sentence imposed for consideration of further departure.
 26

1 At sentencing proceedings the government requested a guideline sentence
2 of 108 months based on a loss computation of \$3,564,838.24, joint and
3 several. The district court applied the parsimony principle and departed to
4 imposed a below guideline sentence of 60 months.

5 Movant is seeking further variance/downward departure from what has
6 already been awarded based on the intervening change is the law.

7 Under the characteristics of the offense of Money Laundering, pursuant to
8 section the Supreme Court' interpretation, the conduct of the Movant did not
9 comport with the characteristics of money laundering. The law is very clear. In
10 United States v. Santos, the Supreme Court espoused a "new rule" by
11 considering "whether the term 'proceeds' in the federal money laundering
12 statute, 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1), means 'receipts' or 'profits.'" 553 U.S. at 509,
13 128 S.Ct. at 2022. A plurality of four justices held that the statute's use of
14 "proceeds" meant "profits." Id. at 513-14, 128 S.Ct. at 2025.

15 In other words, the government must prove that the "proceeds" of the
16 specified unlawful activity were profits and not just gross receipts. This is
17 because the term "proceeds" is ambiguous, and the rule of lenity required
18 interpreting the term in favor of defendants. Santos, 553 U.S. at 514.

19 Case law supports that the Movant is not precluded from raising this issue in
20 a § 2255 proceeding 'if new law has been made . . . since the trial and appeal.'

21 Granted, the court did depart from the guideline offense level that the
22 Government requested by application of the parsimony principle and consideration
23 of 3553 factors, the initial guideline sentencing level was calculated based on the
24 allegation was that Sahabir obtained the "proceeds" from the criminal activities in
25 a concert with Lal Singh and the calculation was based on a specific amount of
26 funds as calculated under 2S1.3.

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STATEMENT OF DISPUTED FACTS

Initially, Movant notes the following Reply to the Government's Response regarding the newly discovered evidence;

(1) The newly discovered evidence was never denied. In fact, the court indicated that that it was beyond its jurisdiction to make a decision regarding the evidence because Notice of Appeal had been filed transferring jurisdiction to the Court of Appeals.

(2) The Government refers to issues in the Appeal which was later withdrawn. The references to issues included in the appeal, never entertained by the Court have no relevance to issues raised in the 2255 motion. The direct appeal was related to matter protected on the record. The issues raised in the 2255 are issues not raised on appeal.

(3) The Memorandum of statements presented to the court regarding the statements Lal Singh made to others indicating that the Sahabir's were merely conduits were taken by a Licensed Private Investigator –Patrick Anastasi, a credible investigator. The sworn statements present as much credibility as the Memorandum presented by the Government by Karen Ali, a statement that was not

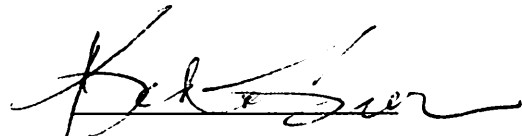
1 taken by the F.B.I. where Karen Ali stated that she did not know Kamla or Baldeo
2 Sahabir and that she has no knowledge whey each or either of them were. Karen
3 Ali's Memorandum was concealed by the Government and was only presented at
4 the end of the trial. Once more this is an indication of the lies on the part of Lal
5 Singh, the individual whose testimony the case was built around

6 Movant also notes here, that initially when interviewed by Law enforcement,
7 Neither the name of Kamla Sahabir or Baldeo Sahabir was brought up by Lal
8 Singh.

9 Contrary to the protestations of the Government there are factors in evidence
10 which were not provided for the courts consideration, relevant to 3553 for the
11 purpose of sentencing.

12
13
14 Respectfully Submitted,

15 Dated this 23rd day of May, 2012.

16
17
18 

19 KAMLA SAHABIR,
20 Movant pro se
21 Fed. Reg. No: 15737-052
22 Box A
23 Alderson, West VA. 24910
24
25
26

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

**CAUSE NO(S): DNYN 1:09-CR-000507-002
1:2012-CV-00461**

I, KAMLA SAHABIR, MOVANT, in the foregoing action, do hereby certify that on this
24 th day of May, 2012, I have served a true and correct copy of the following;

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO REPLY

Upon all parties involved in the matter, to wit:

Edward R. Broton
Office of the United States Attorney
100 South Clinton Street
Syracuse, NY 13261-719

with sufficient postage attached thereupon to carry same to its destination.

Dated this 24th day of May, 2012.

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